

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents
May 14, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James A. Turner, M.A., professor of architecture in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

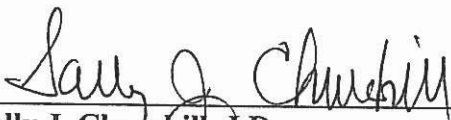
Professor Turner received his B.S. and M.Arch. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He joined the faculty of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning in 1976 as an instructor and assistant research scientist and was promoted to assistant professor in 1979, associate professor in 1985, and professor in 1992. He was an associate research scientist from 1985-92.

Early in his career, Professor Turner wrote a user manual for a computer graphics program, and then worked as a research scientist in the Architecture Research Laboratory (ARL). Many of the programs he and his colleagues invented and implemented in the ARL are still considered advanced today. Professor Turner was also investigator or co-investigator on a number of large sponsored research projects, where he helped define a neutral file format for the exchange of product design, analysis, and fabrication data. This was the precursor to "Building Information Modeling," a program that is critical to the modern design and construction industry. He was a member of the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA), and received ACADIA's Award of Excellence in Teaching in 2002.

A long-standing member of the Architecture Program curriculum committee, Professor Turner also served as secretary of the faculty for both the Architecture Program and the college. He served on the undergraduate admissions committee for almost a decade, was interim chair of the Doctoral Program in Architecture in 2000-01, and served on over 30 doctoral dissertation committees. He has been praised by students for his knowledge, geniality, accessibility, helpfulness, and ability to tie together research and education. As one student wrote, "Of all the professors I have studied with, no one was able to communicate the subject matter to me with such skill, succinctness, lucidity, efficiency, and humor."

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **James A. Turner professor emeritus of architecture**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009